[English]

VIP Movements

749. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the VIP movements for which the airport is often kept closed for civilian air traffic;

(b) the total number of such movements during the last three months, their purpose and duration of each such movement;

(c) whether the Government compensate the civilian aircraft operators for the losses suffered by them due to delayed flights, on ground detentions and extra fuel consumption when held up in the air;

(d) if so, the total amount paid during the last three years; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : At present, for reasons of security and safety, airports are closed for civilian traffic for VIP movements of the President of India and Foreign Heads of States/ Governments. Since 11.7.1997, such closure due to travel by the Prime Minister of India have been discontinued. Efforts are being made to obtain similar orders for other VIP movements also.

(b) During the last three months, fifty five such movements took place and for reasons of security, details of VIPs involved and the duration of closure cannot be indicated.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Drinking Water Problem in Rajasthan

750. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of Supreme Court decision rejecting Government petition on March 3, 1997 to allow construction of Narmada Bandh, stopped due to Narmada Bachao Andolan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to mitigate drinking water problems of backward, desert districts of Western Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) The Supreme Court, which is hearing the petition of the Narmada Bachao Andolan on Sardar Sarovar Project filed in April, 1994, in its order dated 3.3.1997 held the view that no modification in the earlier interim order is called for. The said interim order of 5.5.95 stipulates that for the time being the effective height of the dam would be maintained at 80.3 m which is the existing height between blocks 30 to 46 and the height of the Dam in blocks 29 and 47 to 50 should be raised uniformly to the E1 105 metres; a streamlined hump should be constructed along the down-stream edge of the spillway crest; and in blocks 32 to 37 and 42 to 46 the hump should be of 3 metres height and in blocks 30, 31 and 38 to 41 the maximum height of the hump should not be more than 1.2 metre.

(c) The Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal has allocated 0.5 Million acre Feet (5,00,000 Acre Feet) of Narmada waters to Rajasthan. The Narmada Main Canal now under construction is also to convey water from Sardar Sarovar Dam to Rajasthan border for utilisation in Barmer & Jalore districts of Rajasthan for irrigation & drinking purposes.

[Translation]

Air India failure to boost its Market Share

751. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India has totally failed in boosting its market share;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : (a) to (c) While the number of passengers carried by Air India has not declined, its market share has come down from about 24.5% in 1990 to 22% in 1996, as the airline has not been able to grow at the same rate as the international traffic. To increase its market share, Air India is taking steps to augment capacity, intensify marketing efforts and to improve its product, image and on-time performance.

[English]

Annual Reports on Incidents

752. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air Safety Directorate of his Ministry prepares annual reports on the incidents of air mishaps for publication;

(b) if so, whether such reports on the incidents have not been published for the last three years;

(c) the main reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to take to publish annually the above reports and prompt follow up action thereon?